Eyewitness report: environmentalists plan violence on Oct. 6

Last week, we reported in our cover story that violence was going to be a key part of what the environmentalists are planning for the Oct. 6 demonstration at the Seabrook nuclear power plant. On Sept. 9, the coalition which is organizing the demonstration held a semisecret meeting on a Massachusetts campus... and we were there. Here are excerpts from the affidavit prepared by our undercover reporter who was on the scenes.

I ... do swear that the following is true:

1. On Sunday, Sept. 9, 1979, I attended a meeting of the Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook (hereafter referred to as CDAS), at Mt. Holyoke College, in South Hadley, Mass....

4. The meeting of CDAS was attended by approximately 125 people, who said they represented the following organizations: Greater Newburyport (Mass.) Clamshell; Boston Clamshell Coalition; Merrimack Valley Clamshell; New Haven (Conn.) Clamshell; Rising Free (Binghamton, N.Y.); October 6th Organizing Committee (New York City); Rhode Island Clamshell. Other individuals identified themselves as being from Vermont; Maine; Washington, D.C.; Albany, N.Y.; Cape Cod, Mass.

5. Chairing the meeting were a man identified as Rudy Perkins, and a woman called Nell or Nella. They were both said to be from Boston, Mass.

6. One man, who appeared to me to have considerable influence on the gathering, was identified as "Harvey." I believe that this individual was Boston Clamshell leader Harvey Halpern.

7. The business of the meeting was to discuss the logistics and coordination of a planned occupation of the nuclear power plant construction site at Seabrook, New Hampshire.

8. The meeting began with a two-hour discussion of reports on regions' logistics plans.

9. This section of the meeting dealt with various regions' plans for arriving at what were termed the "staging areas" in the area surrounding the Seabrook plant site, and which sections of the construction site each individual region would approach.

10. The most detailed and carefully planned reports were presented by Boston, Newburyport, and Rhode Island. All three indicated that they had done considerable physical reconnaissance of the area immediately surrounding the plant.

11. The Boston group intends to approach the plant just south of what was described as "the primary target," Core #1.

12. The Rhode Island group intends to approach an analogous area, directly north of Core #1.

13. The Newburyport group intends to enter the site in the northwest sector of the overall plant site, and make its way to the Core #1 through the construction site.

14. All other groups planned to take part in one of these three approaches, especially the Boston and Rhode Island plan.

15. It was stated that preparations began some time ago for the occupation, including meetings with local landowners to persuade them to allow their land to be used as camping and staging areas.

16. The spokesman for the Newburyport group was a man who was addressed as "Peter."

17. "Peter," in his regional report, said that his group intended to deploy a small force the night before (Oct. 5) to carry out special operations (which were not specified). There was no discussion about what these special operations were, only that they would facilitate the occupation itself.

18. During a discussion about removal of fence-cutting implements, following penetration of the fence, "Peter" said that "some so-called anti-nuclear people" were urging that the cutters be used as weapons on the site.

19. The second session lasted about two and one-half hours, and was broken down into two groups, one discussing "strategy," and the other discussing "communications and decision-making." People from each region attended either of the two workshops. I attended the "strategy" session.

20. During this session, it was decided that "takedown time" of the fence surrounding the primary target area would be 8 a.m. on Oct. 6, 1979. The decision was made by consensus.

21. Approaches by the various regions were confirmed as north and south of the core site, the northwest sector of the overall construction site, and—if numbers of occupiers were sufficient—a fourth area from southwest of the overall site, or from the west of the overall site.

22. Various speakers stressed the importance of the Rhode Island and Boston contingents arriving at their respective fence sections simultaneously or nearly-so.

23. It was suggested by one man, unknown to me, that one group penetrating the construction stie could cut tire stems on the waiting arrest buses they expected to be there. There was no discussion about this suggestion.